AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1247 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1935 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 25, NO. 10

The best test of truth is the power of the thought to get itself accepted. — Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Editorials

What Labor Wants

In an address at the Town Hall Meeting in Washington, D. C., a forum for the consideration of questions of public interest, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, discussed in detail the objectives whose achievement motivates the organized labor movement of the United States. In concluding his address, Mr. Green gave the following summary of these objectives:

"The keystone in labor's program at all times is the right to organize and bargain collectively. It asks recognition and acceptance of this right by employers and protection by the government against violation or invasion of this right.

"It asks the right to representation and participation in agencies and decisions where issues which affect its interests and welfare are determined.

"It asks that society make provisions for those to whom an opportunity to earn a living is denied and for those who have lived beyond the productive period.

"It asks that all work, both public and private, be kept on a self-respecting basis so that no one shall be forced down to pauper standards of life and work.

"It asks that educational opportunities be made freely available to all and designed to meet the needs of all.

"It wants child labor abolished permanently and wage standards commensurate with the requirements of the American standard of living established and maintained.

"It insists that cultural and recreational opportunities be created in all civic centers so that talent gained as a result of technical improvement may be made as available and profitable to the individual and the nation as are the hours utilized in earning wages in mills, mines and factories.

"It believes that the way to democratic living is to extend privileges and rights to the underprivileged—the great masses of wage earners and small-salaried workers.

"It believes it is not only possible but highly desirable for men to work together for common betterment and that men would prefer to compete with each other in giving service rather than in gaining control over other men's lives.

"This faith gives Labor courage to join in the common effort to develop the agencies and the practices of a new age."

All of these objectives harmonize with "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," stressed by the Declaration of Independence as the "unalienable rights of all men." Nevertheless, subversive organizations of business men, like the Chamber of Commerce of the United States and the National Association of Manufacturers, bitterly oppose their realization.

A Labor Charter of Liberty

The preamble to the Wagner National Labor Relations Act, now before the Senate Committee on Education and Labor and the House Labor Committee, stresses the right of workers "to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing" as the basic plank in the platform for economic liberty of the wealth producers and declares the realization of that right to be the public policy of the United States.

Asserting that the major purpose of the bill is to promote equality of bargaining power between employers and employes, to diminish the causes of labor disputes and to create a National Labor Relations Board, the Declaration of Policy says:

"Equality of bargaining power between employers and employes is not attained when the organization of employers in the corporate and other forms of ownership association is not balanced by the free exercise by employes of the right to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing.

"Experience has proved that in the absence of such equality the resultant failure to maintain equilibrium between the rate of wages and the rate of industrial expansion impairs economic stability and aggravates recurrent depressions, with consequent detriment to the general welfare and to the free flow of commerce.

"Denials of the right to bargain collectively lead also to strikes and other manifestations of economic strife, which create further obstacles to the free flow of commerce.

"It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States to remove obstructions to the free flow of commerce and to provide for the general welfare by encouraging the practice of collective bargaining, and by protecting the exercise by the worker of full freedom of association, self-organization, and designation of representatives of his own choosing, for the purpose of negotiating the terms and conditions of his employment or other mutual aid or protection."

This Declaration of Policy of Senator Wagner's bill may accurately be called a Labor Charter of Liberty. Organized labor expects that the text of the bill which is designed to give validity to the Declaration of Policy will pass both Houses of Congress without amendments designed to weaken any of its provisions.

LABOR REPRESENTATION ON ALL NRA CODE BOARDS DEMANDED BY GREEN

Workers Denied Real Voice in 836 Out of 549 Code Authorities—Employers Use the Courts to Block Genuine Elections for Collective Bargaining Representatives.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—A strong criticism of the policy of the National Recovery Administration which denies working men and women adequate representation on the code authorities that administer the codes was voiced by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in address delivered here at the Town Hall Meeting, an organization for the discussion of public questions.

The A. F. of L. president also pointed out that many reactionary employers make use of the courts to prevent the workers from exercising their legal right under the Recovery Act and decisions of the National Labor Relations Board to hold genuine elections for choosing collective bargaining representatives.

Employers Dictate Code Administration

"Labor does not have adequate representation and voice in the administration of the NRA," Mr. Green said. "Out of 549 codes only 23 provide for bona fide labor representation. Upon 23 others there have been appointed Labor-Administration members with a vote—13 as a result of provisions in the code itself and 15 as a result of administrative orders.

"Labor wants adequate representation on every code authority on equal footing with all other representatives. Labor believes that it should have the same right to management to offer amendments to codes of fair practice, which experience shows brings many desirable results. It believes also that no code should be extended or imposed upon labor without a hearing, as happened in the case of the automobile code.

National Labor Relations Board

"As soon as the NRA began to function, it was obvious there must be a tribunal to which labor could carry violations of its fundamental right to organize and bargain collectively.

"First the National Labor Board was created by Executive Order. Then Public Resolution No. 44 of the Seventy-third Congress set up the National Labor Relations Board. This board may hold elections in order that workers may determine their collective bargaining agency when disputes arise. It also hears cases of code violations when Section 7-A is involved and serves as an appeal board for cases referred to it by its regional boards.

Workers' Elections Blocked

"The National Steel and National Textile Labor Relations Boards were created under the same joint resolution. However employers have been unwilling that employes should exercise the right of holding elections. They have invoked the courts to prevent orders for elections from being carried out. They have invented the formula of minority representation for collective bargaining so as to minimize any advantage to a majority vote for a union. Three of the major industries, steel, automobile parts and rubber, have refused to recognize their employes' right to an election."

8-HOUR LAW FLOUTED ON BOULDER DAM WORK

Contractors Charged With Keeping Two Sets of Payrolls

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—Secretary of the Interior Ickes announced that evidences of violation of the federal eight-hour law by the maintenance of two sets of payrolls by the Six Companies, Inc., contractors for the construction of Boulder Dam, had reached such proportions that he had ordered Col. R. Gibbs, director of the Division of Investigations, to go personally to Boulder City in connection with the case.

"The records of the Six Companies," Secretary Ickes said, "were seized on the authority of a search warrant. According to special agents who have examined them, they show many thousands of violations of the law prohibiting contractors from permitting anyone to work more than eight hours a day on government projects."

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

By WILLIAM GREEN

President, American Federation of Labor

Washington, March 6.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, issued the following statement mourning the death of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes:

"The men and women of Labor throughout the nation mourn the death of Justice Holmes.

"He was an uncompromising liberal. Because of the advanced and liberal interpretation which he placed upon the Constitution, he leavened the masses with hope and with a new and more comprehensive understanding of the flexibility of the organic law of the Nation.

"Justice Holmes occupied a large place in the hearts and affections of the working people and all their friends in the United States. He was beloved as a great judge possessed of a social vision, a great heart, and a keen, penetrating, analytical mind. He stands in a class by himself because our Nation has produced but one who, serving in a judicial position, has been a consistent and uncompromising liberal.

"All of Labor is deeply grieved over the passing of Justice Holmes."

PARLEY WITH MOTOR MAGNATES IS ASKED BY PRESIDENT GREEN

Negotiated Agreement Urged on Wages, Hours and Employment Conditions for Auto Workers—Unions Take Vote on Strike.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—With the 176 locals of the United Automobile Workers' Federal Labor Union taking a vote on the proposal to strike, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, sent a communication to Albert Reeves, vice president of the Automobile Manufacturers' Association, New York City, requesting a conference for the purpose of negotiating an agreement for the employes of the automobile industry.

Employers Undermine Unions

In his letter Mr. Green referred to a communication from the National Council of the United Automobile Workers charging that the Automobile Labor Board "has subordinated principle as well as character by permitting its prestige and impartiality to be swayed and utilized by the employer to persuade workers through misrepresentation and deception to desert their free trade unions and associate themselves with employer councils under the domination of the company and the board."

The council designated Mr. Green as its "duly accredited bargaining" agency and requested him to seek a conference with the employers for the purpose of developing a mutually satisfactory agreement.

Text of Green's Letter

The text of Mr. Green's letter to Mr. Reeves follows:

"I have been officially authorized and requested by the representatives of Federal Labor Unions of Automobile Workers affiliated with the American Federation of Labor who are employed in numerous automobile manufacturing plants, to request a conference with the automobile manufacturers affiliated with the Automobile Manufacturers' Association for the purpose of negotiating an agreement applicable to these workers regarding wages, hours, and conditions of employment in the automobile manufacturing industry.

Desires Cooperation Relationship

"Perhaps I can best present the matter for your favorable consideration by enclosing a copy of a communication signed by the members of the National Council of United Automobile Workers' Federal Labor Unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. You will find a copy of this communication enclosed.

"Please be assured that in requesting a conference with the automobile manufacturers affiliated with the Automobile Manufacturers' Association I am inspired by a sincere desire to establish a genuine cooperative relationship between automobile workers and automobile management and to promote and advance the cause of industrial peace.

Collective Relationship Important

"It must be apparent to you that the automobile manufacturing industry has passed from the point of individual worker and management relationship to the time and period which calls for the establishment of a collective relationship between automobile workers and automobile management.

"Stability, cooperation, and a constructive relationship can be established between the workers and management in the automobile industry only through the development of collective bargaining processes through which agreements covering fixed periods of time may be negotiated and signed.

"The American Federation of Labor is committed to the principle of collective bargaining and the consummation and observance of wage agreements.

"As the duly accredited representative of the automobile workers herein referred to I respectfully request that my association and I may confer and confer with the representatives of the automobile manufacturers' Association at the earliest possible date and at such place as may be suitable to their convenience.

"I sincerely hope I may receive a favorable reply to this communication at the earliest possible date."

ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT ORDERS GAINED 26 PER CENT IN 1934

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New York.—Reflecting sustained improvement in electrical equipment, new orders booked by 76 manufacturers in 1934 are estimated to have approximated $419,000,000, as against $225,066,506 in 1933.

This gain of about 26 per cent was largely the result of increased demand for lighter lines and home appliances. Sales of capital goods showed only modest improvement during 1934, according to the Standard Statistics Company, although such special projects as the TVA, Boulder Dam and the further electrification of the Pennsylvania Railroad accounted for some expansion of activities in these fields. Prospects for the industry in the current year are encouraging.

JUSTICE HOLMES DIES OF PNEUMONIA; WAS 93

Served 29 Years on U. S. Supreme Court—Noted for Liberal Views—Defended Fundamental Rights.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—Oliver Wendell Holmes, retired associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, died here at 93 after a short illness which developed into pneumonia.

He would have been 94 two days after the demise. But instead of living to receive congratulations from men and women in all walks of life, he was buried on that day.

Justice Holmes was universally respected as the "great liberal," and was admired not only by thousands of jurists and lawyers, but by the citizens generally.

His liberal views often compelled him to disagree with the majority of his associates on the Supreme Court, for which he was frequently called the "great dissenter."

Defended Freedom

The former justice frequently expressed his belief in the responsibility of legislatures in preserving the fundamental rights linked with free speech, free press and free assembly. In one decision he said:

"Legislatures are ultimate guardians of the liberty and welfare of the people in quite as great a degree as the courts."

In another decision he declared: "We should be eternally vigilant against attempts to check the expression of opinions that we loathe."

Served in Civil War

Mr. Holmes was born in Boston, March 5, 1841. Graduated from Harvard in 1861, he volunteered for service in the Civil War, serving as a lieutenant with the Twentieth Massachusetts Regiment. He was wounded several times.

At the close of the War he entered the Harvard Law School, from which he graduated in 1866. He served as instructor and professor of law in the Harvard Law School for many years. Governor Long of Massachusetts appointed him an associate justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of that State, in which capacity he served until 1899 when he was named chief justice of Massachusetts.

Appointed to Supreme Court

In 1902, when he was 61, former President Roosevelt appointed him to fill a vacancy on the United States Supreme Court, on which he served until January 11, 1932, when he resigned because of ill health.

In a letter to President Hoover, he wrote that "the condition of my health makes it a duty to break off connections that I cannot leave without deep regret after the affectionate relations of many years and the absorbing interests that have filled my life," adding:

"But the time has come, and I bow to it as inevitable. I have nothing but kindness to remember from you and my brethren. My last word should be one of grateful thanks."

FARMERS' UNION BACKS PREVAILING WAGE RATE

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—The Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union of America, popularly called the National Farmers' Union, wholeheartedly supports the Mosely prevailing wage amendment to the $4,500,000,000 work relief bill, according to a statement by E. H. Everson, president of the union, and Edward E. Kennedy, national secretary.

Prevailing Interest Rates and Prices

Speaking as the union's authorized legislative representatives in Washington, they characterized the "proposal to pay prevailing rates of interest to the moneylenders and prevailing prices to manufacturers for material and to pay less than prevailing wages to labor" out of the big work relief appropriation "is as indefensible and as un-American as it would be for the government through the AAA to require farmers to produce food and fibre for less than cost of production prices."

"Both are destructive of American standards of living," the statement adds. "Both will continue to deadlock recovery."

Wages and Prices

"The interests of farmers and laborers are inseparable. As a producing farmer, receiving cost of production prices for his products, he is the best potential customer of labor, and the laborer who receives a 'living wage' is the best potential customer of the farmer. When farmers receive less than cost of production prices, labor is penalized through unemployment and low wages because the home market for its products and services is destroyed. When labor receives less than a living wage or is unemployed, the home market for agriculture is destroyed and farmers are penalized with low prices."

"The National Farmers' Union," the statement concluded, "is opposed to reducing in any manner the standard of living of either farmers or laborers in America. The National Farmers' Union is for the McCarran amendment to the work relief program. The National Farmers' Union is for the payment of prevailing wages on public works projects."

Williams Quits As NRA Chairman

Head of Reynolds Tobacco Company Was Charged by Labor With Urging Wages as Low as 12 Cents an Hour for Tobacco Code and for Refusing to Participate with Workers' Representatives in Code Hearings.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington. — S. Clay Williams, chairman of the National Industrial Recovery Board, has resigned, it was announced by the White House.

Mr. Williams, who is also chairman of the board of the Reynolds Tobacco Company, has been under militant fire from the organized labor movement for a number of months. He was appointed chairman September 27, 1934, when President Roosevelt reorganized the NRA to eliminate the one-man administration under Gen. Hugh S. Johnson.

Cigar Makers Lead Attack

Labor's attack on Mr. Williams was started by the Cigar Makers' International Union of America. A resolution presented to the 1934 convention of the American Federation of Labor last October, I. M. Ornburn, president of the Cigar Makers, declared that Mr. Williams as chairman of the NRA code committee for the cigarette and smoking tobacco industry for 15 months had been overwhelmingly in position and influence to prevent the consideration of any code for that industry."

The resolution added that when "finally forced to present a code" Mr. Williams submitted one "which would have permitted the payment of wages as low as 12 cents an hour," that he "refused to participate in any hearing or meeting with representatives of the workers of the cigarette and smoking tobacco manufacturing industry and officials of the NRA," and that he declared "40 cents an hour is an excessive minimum wage to be made effective for skilled workers."

"Unfair" to Labor

In view of this record the resolution directed the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. to call the attention of President Roosevelt to the "biased, unfair, and inconsiderate" attitude of Mr. Williams toward labor.

It also asked the resolution the convention emphasized the "impropriety of the appointment of individuals to positions under the National Industrial Recovery Act whose public record has been in violation of the principles of freedom of association, collective bargaining, and the principles and definite provisions embodied in Sections 7-a and 7-b of the National Industrial Recovery Act."

Difficult Cooperation

"It is difficult, if not impossible," the convention added, "for trade unionists to cooperate satisfactorily with individuals whose public statements and activities indicate that they are at variance with the intent and the provisions of legislation which declares the right of Labor to voluntary organization is equal in every respect to that of all other groups of citizens."

The resolution, which was a direct suggestion that Mr. Williams' services as chairman of the Recovery Board should be dispensed with, was presented to the President. On December 21, in a letter to President Green, Mr. Roosevelt declined to comply with the Federation's request.

When the President refused to ask for Williams' resignation, Mr. Ornburn began working for an investigation of the cigarette industry by the U. S. Senate, stressing the profits of the "Big Five" companies in the production of Mr. Williams with the Cigarette Code.

Automobile Code Complaint

The American Federation of Labor was also preparing to carry on congressional investigation of the manner in which the proposal for the renewal of the Automobile Code was handled by the NIRA. The Federation joined with the Council of the United Automobile Workers' Federal Labor Union in requesting that the code be reopened for the purpose of revising the labor provisions which were used against the auto workers. The automobile magnates demanded the renewal of the code without hearings.

The National Industrial Recovery Board by a vote of 3 to 2 on March 1 voted against extending the code in the form signed by the manufacturers. The three majority members were Leon Marshall, Walton Hamilton, and Sidney Hillman —had no sympathy for communicating their decision to the White House and were not informed as to the character of the communication which Mr. Williams and Arthur D. Whiteside, the other minority member, filed with the President. Mr. Roosevelt acted on the recommendation of the minority of the board and refused to open the code for hearings.

On learning of the resignation of Mr. Williams, President Green of the A. F. of L. said:

"I hope it will be a step toward equal representation for labor with industry on NRA codes."

2½% PAY TAX ENDORSED FOR OLD-AGE PENSIONS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—Switching severely to the right, the House Ways and Means Committee in its reported agreement on the old-age pension bill has made possible a much more conservative than the Cabinet committee appointed by President Roosevelt to study social security.

As the basis for footing the bill for old-age pensions the committee voted to adopt amendments to the Cabinet committee's report proposed by Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau that would fix a payroll tax at 2 per cent with provision for a gradual increase in the tax during three-year intervals to a maximum of 6 per cent within 12 years.

The committee also voted to exempt farmers, domestics and so-called casual laborers from the unemployment compensation and old-age security provisions of the Wagner-Lewis-Doughton bill, which would carry out the Administration's program.

Organized Labor Lines Up Solidly For Wagner Labor Relations Act

NATIONAL BISCUIT STRIKE ENDORSED BY A. F. OF L.

Trade Unions Urged to Give Support to Movement for Union Wages and Work Conditions in Company's Plants.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—Wholehearted support of the fight of union workers in New York City and Philadelphia to secure union wages and work conditions in the plants of the National Biscuit Company in those cities was urged by Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, in a letter to the affiliated bodies.

"Early in January, five unions in plants of the National Biscuit Company went out on strike in protest against the labor policies of the company," Mr. Morrison said. "Two of the unions on strike are federal labor unions affiliated directly with the American Federation of Labor; three are local unions of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union of America.

Wage Adjustments Denied

"Federal Labor Union No. 18660 of Philadelphia, and Inside Bakery Workers' Union No. 19585 of New York had an agreement with the National Biscuit Company, made under date of July 8, 1934, that wage rates would be equalized. Employees doing the same work were, in many cases, receiving very different rates of pay. Up to January 8, 1935, the Philadelphia union had been unable to secure the wage adjustments provided for in their agreement. At that time, when the strike began, it was clear that the company was using every means to delay or evade the adjustment.

Wide Publicity

"The unions on strike have for more than eight weeks put up a splendid fight. They should have the help and the support of the entire organized labor movement. The National Biscuit Company has a plant in your city. Every union in your community should be informed of the struggle union men and women are carrying on against the National Biscuit Company. To bring this about, please give as wide publicity as possible in your meetings to this strike."

AUTO LABOR BOARD'S ELECTIONS DENOUNCED

By A. F. of L. News Service.

An Associated Press dispatch announces that the Automobile Labor Board has invaded Flint, Mich., to give the 36,000 auto workers in that city an opportunity to choose collective bargaining representatives.

In a recent address on the economic condition sof the automobile workers, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, gave a vivid description and denunciation of the methods used by the board, which, he charged, give the workers "no real opportunity to vote for a union."

Mr. Green said:

"The American Federation of Labor unions want elections in the automobile plants. But they want elections which will give the majority rights to workers in other industries enjoy and to which their own legality entitled.

"Elections are held by the Wolman Board without consulting labor and without the request of labor. Elections to determine representatives for collective bargaining are solely the affairs of the employer concerned and should be ordered and supervised by the government only upon the request of the employes.

"The conditions under which the Automobile Labor Board is holding elections are invalidates these elections, even though they were requested and desired by the workers.

Union Name Barred from Ballots

"Elections are held in the plants contrary to the procedure established by other labor boards. The name of the organization by which the workers want to be represented in collective bargaining does not appear on the ballot, so that the workers are given no real opportunity to vote for a union.

"The very purpose of the elections is to frustrate rather than to further collective bargaining. There can be no collective bargaining unless the employes can oppose their full strength to the strength of the employer. This they cannot do when they are divided into rival groups as they are under the rules of representation of the Wolman Board.

Three Union Auto Companies

"I must pay tribute to many progressive employers who have established mutually satisfactory relationships with their employes, and who have found that their relation greatly improved thereby.

"Even in the automobile industry, there are a few that three manufacturers who have entered into real collective bargaining agreements with unions who have arrived at agreements, either written or oral, with the unions of their employees. Those companies are Hupp, White Motors and Nash. The working conditions in these plants have been greatly improved as a result of understanding and cooperation which has grown out of collective bargaining.

"Automobile workers are reasonable men. They know the problems of the industry and they have much to give in finding solutions for those problems.

Committee to Study Mill Conditions in Rhode Island

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Providence, R. I.—Problems of the textile industry and recommendations of means to improve its conditions will be considered by the special committee which was organized in the office of Governor Green. Charles M. Corcoran, retired mill man, was chosen chairman and John M. Powers, representing labor on the committee, was elected secretary.

Reaffirms Workers' Right to Join Labor Unions and Bargain Collectively Through Representatives of Their Own Choosing Free from Employer Interference.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—With organized labor and other progressive organizations throughout the United States solidly supporting the Wagner Labor Relations Bill, it should be promptly expedited through the United States Senate and House of Representatives and made the law of the land.

The bill is a conservative statement of the fundamental principles which underlie the effective struggle of working men and women for realization of the rights essential to securing an approach to justice in our system for the production and distribution of wealth.

Right to Organize

After declaring that collective bargaining by the workers through representatives of their own choosing is necessary to equality of bargaining power between employes and employers, the bill implements that right with the following provision:

"Section 7. Employes shall have the right to self-organization, to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and to engage in concerted activities, for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection."

Unfair Labor Practices

Acting on experience regarding the many nefarious devices used by reactionary employers to deprive the workers of their fundamental rights to carry on effective trade unionism the bill itemizes the more outrageous devices as "unfair labor practices" and declares them illegal.

The items are listed as unfair labor practices!

"1. To interfere with, restrain, or coerce employes in the exercise of the rights guaranteed in Section 7.

"2. To dominate or interfere with the formation or administration of any labor organization or contribute financial or other support to it.

"3. By discrimination in regard to hire or tenure of employment or any term or condition of employment to encourage or discourage membership in any labor organization.

"4. To discharge or otherwise discriminate against an employee because he has filed charges or given testimony under this Act."

Union Agreements Authorized

The four positive prohibitions are accompanied with two modifications. The first declares that, subject to rules and regulations laid down by the National Labor Relations Board, "an employer shall not be prohibited from permitting employes to confer with him during working hours without loss of time or pay."

The second declares that nothing in the Wagner Act nor the National Industrial Recovery Act as amended from time, or in any code or agreement, or any other U. S. statute "shall preclude an employer from making an agreement with a labor organization (not established, maintained, or assisted by any action defined in this Act as an unfair labor practice) to require as a condition of employment membership therein, if such labor organization is the representative of the majority of the employes in the appropriate collective bargaining unit covered by such agreement when made."

Real Elections Provided

In regard to elections for collective bargaining representatives, the bill declares:

"Section 9. (a) Representatives designated or selected for the purposes of collective bargaining by the majority of the employes in a unit appropriate for such purposes, shall be the exclusive representatives of all the employes in such unit for the purposes of collective bargaining in respect to rates of pay, wages, hours of employment, or other conditions of employment: Provided, that any individual employe or group of employes shall have the right at any time to present grievances to their employer and to have the representatives of their own choosing.

"(b) The Board shall decide whether, in any case in which a petition is filed under this Act, the unit appropriate for the purposes of collective bargaining shall be the employer unit, craft unit, plant unit, or other unit."

Labor Relations Board

The bill prescribes that the Board to administer the Act shall consist of three members appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate, with power to investigate controversies, to hold elections, to arbitrate when the parties concerned agree to arbitration, to ask restraining orders from the appropriate District Court, to certify to that court records of cases in which the compliance with the Board's orders is refused."

Important Measure, Green Says

In a statement on the proposed legislation and the National Labor Relations Board to administer it, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, said:

"The Wagner Bill to create a Board with the authority to deal with the most fundamental measures in Labor's legislative program is the most valuable guarantee of its kind to organize in bona fide trade unions and to bargain collectively.

"To do this Labor must have a tribunal to which it can refer violations of its rights. Labor's most valuable asset in unions is a right guaranteed solely to wage earners, in which employers have neither part nor interest.

"Any effort on the part of employers to set up or finance an employe representation organization is a substitute for a union, is a restraint or interference with this fundamental workers' right and is directly opposed to democracy.

"Upon the nation's answer to Section 7-A and Labor's demand for real equality of bargaining power depend the economic and political destiny of this country."